



BUCKFASTLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1967

PRESENTED BY
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

URBAN DISTRICT OF BUCKFASTLEIGH.

Annual Report on the Health of the Area for the year 1967.

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BUCKFASTLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT

Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1967.

p r e f a c e

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Report on the Health of the District during 1967, drawn up along the lines suggested in Ministry of Health Circular 1/68, dated January, 1968. Included in the Report is the Report of your Public Health Inspector.

Very little change occurred in the vital statistics and no cases of infectious disease were notified.

Owing to the generosity of the Abbot of Buckfast Abbey, and to the enthusiasm of volunteer workers from the Town, the Meals on Wheels service was recommenced at the end of November.

I wish to thank all the Members of the Council and Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

John Wildman.

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1968.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT 1967.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

John Wildman, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Full time appointment commenced 17th July, 1967)

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Mary E. Budding, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR (Also Surveyor).

G.T.W.Allen, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Council Offices,
Town Hall,
Buckfastleigh.

Tel. Buckfastleigh 2333

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman

Councillor Revd.J.W.Timms, C.C.

Chairman of the Council

Councillor W.J. Chaffe, J.P.

and

ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

M.O.H. Central Office.

Area No.5 - South West Devon,
Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Plympton, Plymouth. Tel. Plymouth 36644.

M.O.H. Clerk.

Miss G. Prowse.

Tel. Plymouth 36644.

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SECTION A.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1967.

Table 1.

Figures for 1966 are shown in brackets.

POPULATION:

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Buckfastleigh Urban District.

2,530 (2,520)

Natural increase or decrease	...	...	- 14
Migration in or out	...	...	+ 24
Total increase or decrease	...	...	+ 10
Population at 1961 Census	...	...	2,558

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of Buckfastleigh Urban District in Acres.

1,365

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books.

1,027 (1,012)

Number of Houses per acre	...	...	0.753 (0.742)
Number of Persons per acre	...	...	1.854 (1.846)
Number of Persons per house	...	...	2.463 (2.490)
Dwellings owned by the Council	...	...	396

Rateable Value of District.

£100,012 (£96,941)

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate.

£394 (£375)

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1967.

Table 2.

Figures for 1966 are shown in brackets

BIRTHS:

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... 16.8 (15.8)

Area Comparability Factor for Births 1.33

Number of Live Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Total</u>	16	16	32
Legitimate	13	14	27
Illegitimate	3	2	5
<u>Number of Still Births</u>	1	0	1

DEATHS:

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population ... 13.5 (10.5)

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths 0.74 (0.72)

Number of Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>All Ages - Total</u>	22	24	46
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 yr.</u>	0	0	0
Number under 4 weeks of age	0	0	0
Number under 1 week of age	0	0	0

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births ... 0.0 (66.6)

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES:

Birth Rate 17.2 (17.7) Death Rate 11.2 (11.7)

Infantile Mortality Rate 18.3 (19.0)
(Infants under 1 year of age)

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No cases of infectious illness were notified.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 - No statutory action was necessary for the removal of persons in need of care and attention.

Section 50 - No burials took place under this Section of the Act

CAUSES OF DEATH 1967.

<u>Line No.</u>		<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
	ALL CAUSES	22	24	46
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough... ..	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases... ..	0	0	0
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	0	0	0
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lungs, bronchus	2	1	3
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast... ..	0	0	0
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus... ..	-	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	1	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes... ..	0	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	6	9
18.	Coronary disease, angina	6	3	9
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	0	0	0
20.	Other heart disease	2	6	8
21.	Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
22.	Influenza	0	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	2	1	3
24.	Bronchitis	0	0	0
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases... ..	1	3	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	0	1
34.	All other accidents	0	0	0
35.	Suicide	0	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Hospitals.

A general practitioner hospital with 15 mixed medical and surgical beds is situated in Ashburton. Other hospitals which serve the district are Newton Abbot Hospital and Torbay Hospital. There is a maternity unit at Broomborough Hospital, Totnes, to which many of the Buckfastleigh mothers are admitted for their confinement.

2. County Council Health Services.

Under the National Health Services Act, 1946, the County Council provides the following services:-

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home help services, and the aftercare of such persons.

One district nurse/midwife works in the district together with a health visitor and a nursing assistant. A child welfare clinic is held twice a month and the health visitor for the area is in attendance. The Home Help Service is provided by the County Council and the local Organiser, Mrs. Clarke, has her office at 43, Fore Street, Totnes. Telephone Totnes 2663. A chiropody service is provided by the County Council and has been made available for the handicapped, aged, and expectant mothers. A chiropody clinic operates at Buckfastleigh Health Centre for a whole day once a month. (Telephone Buckfastleigh 2371).

3. Laboratory Service.

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water and ice cream are carried out at the Public Health Laboratories at Exeter and Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by public analysts at Exeter.

4. Health Centre.

This was opened in May, 1966, and provides surgery accommodation and clerical help for two General Medical Practitioners as well as clinic facilities for Devon County Council Services.

5. Mass Miniature Radiography.

Facilities were available at Totnes and Newton Abbot for the general public to visit the Mass Radiography Unit, which called regularly every fortnight at those towns.

6. Mental Health.

Arrangements for treatment under the Mental Health Act, 1959, can be made either by the patient's own doctor or by the Mental Welfare Officer - Mr. P. Rescorla, "Rosabelle", Plymouth Road, Totnes. Telephone Totnes 3534.

7. Family Planning Service.

A clinic is held at the Adult Education Centre, Shimmers Bridge, Dartington, on the third Tuesday afternoon of alternate months beginning in January of each year. Appointments can be made by the Appointments Secretary, Family Planning Association, 4, Barnfield Hill, Exeter. Telephone Exeter 76892 (on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays).

8. Cervical Cytology.

A cervical cytology clinic for the early detection of cancer in women is held once a month at the Buckfastleigh Health Centre, Telephone Buckfastleigh 2371. All women between the ages of 30 and 60 years of age are eligible to apply for a test.

9. Meals on Wheels.

This service re-commenced at the end of November, 1967, and meals for 12 persons were provided twice a week. The Abbot of Buckfast Abbey kindly arranged the cooking of the meals for an experimental period of two months. Twenty volunteer helpers distributed the meals under their Organiser, Mrs. S.M.Palk.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Refuse.

Refuse is collected weekly and taken to the refuse tip which is a disused quarry situated well away from the town. While measures are taken to ensure nuisances do not occur at this tip, it must be realised that fully controlled tipping is not carried out in Buckfastleigh. Some measure of control over fly and rat infestation is obtained by controlled burning. This has become necessary because of the bulky volume of the refuse due to the double and treble wrapping of some goods and packages. Burning reduces this bulk and kills fly eggs and larvae and deters the scavenging of rats.

A new face was started during the year, the old one being sealed with soil and other inert matter. The old area has been allocated to Contractors and others for their use, but, owing to the fact that they just tip without spreading, access becomes difficult and they tip on the new face causing additional work for our men.

During the year a new and larger refuse vehicle was purchased.

2. Sewage.

There has been no change in the running of the Works nor in the nature of the sewage arriving at the Works, which is still 50% trade liquors. The operation of the Works continues to be very efficient, but the strength of the sewage arriving at the Works is still very high and with crude figures around 1200 p.p.m. the Works would have to operate at an overall efficiency of more than 98% to produce a 20/30 effluent.

The Imperial Chemical Industries Research Laboratory at Brixham submitted an interim report on daily observations and tests at the Works. The report has been passed to the Council's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Harvey, McGill & Hayes of Exeter, for a report on the practical implications contained therein.

3. Caravans.

There are two licensed caravan sites in the district, one of which is owned by the Council. Both are well run and managed.

4. Factories. (See also Section F.).

This Local Authority is responsible for enforcing the provisions in the Factories Act, 1961, relating to sanitary conveniences, and the Regulations made in connection with these, in all factories. The District Council is also responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Act dealing with cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, and drainage of floors, in all factories not using mechanical power.

A complaint of industrial noise and dust was brought to the attention of the Council, and the Owners were contacted and were able to reduce both the dust and the noise by remedial building and plant.

Part 8 of the Factories Act, 1961, deals with home work and the provisions relating to this are enforced by the District Council. There are no outworkers in the town.

5. Swimming Pool.

The swimming pool has a capacity of 59,100 gallons. The water is obtained from a leat running through the town, the origin of which is an upland surface source on Dartmoor. The leat however runs through a part of the town and some mixed farming country before arriving at the pool, and the water is not filtered before it fills the pool, which is open-air. An automatic drip-feed chlorinator is fixed to the inlet end of the pool and has proved satisfactory, although in periods of high temperatures it becomes necessary to supplement the chlorine content by hand.

6. Rodent Control.

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, this Local Authority has an obligation to ensure that, as far as is practicable, the area is kept free from rats or mice. For this purpose frequent inspections are necessary, and, in addition, occupiers of land are required to give notice to the Local Authority whenever it comes to their knowledge that rats or mice are present on the land in substantial numbers. In the case of food premises, the notification must be made to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

The rat population continues at a low level and the position may be summarised as satisfactory.

7. Pest Control.

There is no nuisance in the town arising from pigeons, but there has been an increase in the number of requests for the destruction of wasps' nests. These have been done free of charge where it was considered that the wasps could be a danger to road users, particularly pedestrians.

8. Water.

Water is supplied by the South West Devon Water Board. It is upland surface water collected on Dartmoor, reaching the district by gravity from a large storage reservoir. The water is chlorinated, and hardened by adding soda ash. The treated water is not plumbo-solvent.

The South West Devon Water Board carry out bacteriological examinations at regular intervals. No contamination of the water has been reported. The quality and quantity of the water was satisfactory throughout the year.

9. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

The total number of premises affected is only 4, and, apart from the offices, other premises are being inspected under other Acts.

No changes, other than personnel, took place during the year under review. All conditions were again found to be satisfactory according to the Act.

SECTION D.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Food Premises.

There were 43 food premises operating in the district during the year, and this figure includes 10 cafes, hotels and restaurants, and 33 retail food shops. All were visited and found to be well-managed and clean. Some of the shops are rather small and the rear of the premises tend to get cluttered up with empty packing cases, thus creating a bad impression as well as harbourage for pests.

2. Food Hygiene.

The high standard of hygiene by all food handlers is being maintained.

3. Unsound Food.

A small quantity of tinned food was surrendered, again apparently due to bad warehousing.

4. Meat Inspection.

Meat inspection was carried out as in previous years.

Two slaughterhouses cater for the district. The following is a table showing the meat inspected and the quantity condemned:-

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. killed	200	-	530	-	730
No. inspected	200	-	530	-	730
No. of entire carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
No. of carcasses of which some part was condemned	9	-	-	-	9

SECTION E.

HOUSING.

1. General.

Of the 1,027 inhabited houses in the district 397 were owned by the Council.

2. Housing Survey.

The "Buckfastleigh Urban District No.1 Clearance Area 1966" was withdrawn as the owner carried out considerable alterations and improvements to the properties, which provided amenities hitherto lacking.

3. Housing Improvement Grants.

Improvement grants were approved in respect of 5 properties in the town.

4. Infestation.

No cases of infestation occurred during the year.

SECTION F.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

The following is a summary of information required in respect of the year 1967. A total of 109 inspections was made in respect of 36 premises listed in the Factories Register.

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

(i) Factories without Mechanical Power. (Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6).

Number on Register	...	...	...	2
Inspections	...	...	...	4
Written Notices	...	...	...	0
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	0

(ii) Factories with Mechanical Power. (Section 7).

Number on Register	...	...	...	28
Inspections	...	...	...	58
Written Notices	...	...	...	0
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	0

(iii) Other Premises under the Act. (Section 7)

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works of Engineering Construction, but excluding Outworkers' Premises).

Number on Register	...	...	...	6
Inspections	...	...	...	47
Written Notices	...	...	...	0
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	0

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

See table overleaf.

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were made
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			By H.M. Insp.	To H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp. (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work.	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel (making)	-	-	-	-	-	-

